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NEWS

Winchester community responds to help feed its neighbors

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Volunteer Ventures MA (VVMA), a Lexington-based nonprofit, hosted an emergency Soup Jar Making event on Nov. 9 at Temple Shir Tikvah in Winchester. COURTESY PHOTO/VOLUNTEER VENTURES MA

The following was submitted by Volunteer Ventures MA:

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In the wake of the chaos and uncertainty surrounding cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Volunteer Ventures MA (VVMA), a Lexington-based nonprofit, hosted an emergency Soup Jar Making event on Nov. 9 at Temple Shir Tikvah in Winchester.

A Winchester resident fills up a mason jar with spiral pasta. COURTESY PHOTO/VOLUNTEER VENTURES MA

The social hall was abuzz with action as more than 90 volunteers from Winchester and other communities heeded the call to assist neighbors coping with food insecurity.

"I was overwhelmed by the community response – it was an awe
turnout on short notice, resulting in the production of 480 shelf-s

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nourishing, and tasty Soup Jars which will be distributed to local food pantries and other community-based partners," said Barry Glass, VVMA founder and president. "I was inspired to see so many people step up so quickly to be sure our neighbors have access to food during this unprecedented assault on SNAP-dependent families.

Volunteers from Winchester and other communities joined in for an emergency Soup Jar event on Nov. 9. COURTESY PHOTOS/VOLUNTEER VENTURES MA

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"It was especially heartening to see so many families with young children show up and step up," he continued. "The kids – some as young as 5 years old – did a really great job putting the soup ingredients together with great concentration and care. We are totally grateful for an awesome community of volunteers and love to see young people building up strong 'muscles of service.'"

In Massachusetts, over 1 million residents rely on SNAP benefits, with children making up 32% of recipients, seniors 26%, and people with disabilities 31% of recipients.

Volunteers from the soup making event show their filled mason jars. COURTESY PHOTO/VOLUNTEER VENTURES MA

If you would like to sponsor a Soup Jar making event or support VVMA's many other hands-on service programs, visit their website www.volunteerventuresma.org to learn more and get involved.

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Winchester Select Board approves overnight parking pilot, permit fees increased

The Winchester Select Board on Feb. 23 approved an overnight parking pilot, raised building permit fees for the first time since 2021, adopted the 2026 outdoor dining policy and directed the town manager to examine reinvesting downtown-generated revenue into town center improvements. The board voted unanimously to implement the overnight

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‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

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Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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